

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A current collecting structure comprising:

- a current collecting substrate; and
- a carbon material formed on said current collecting substrate without the use of binders,  
wherein said carbon material has a higher density near the current collecting substrate and a lower density in an upper region.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A current collecting structure comprising:

- a current collecting substrate and
- a rod-shaped, sponge-shaped, or fiber-shaped carbon material formed on said current collecting substrate.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A current collecting structure comprising:

- a current collecting substrate,
- a laminar carbon material formed on said current collecting substrate, and
- a rod-shaped, sponge-shaped, or fiber-shaped carbon material formed on said laminar carbon material.

Claim 4 (original): An electrode structure comprising the current collecting substrate of claim 1, and an electrode active material formed on said surface of carbon material.

Claim 5 (original): An electrode structure according to claim 4, wherein said electrode active material has a mean particle diameter of less than 2 microns.

Claim 6 (original): A battery comprising the electrode structure of claim 4.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A capacitor comprising the electrode structure of claim 4.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An electrode structure comprising:

a current collecting substrate and  
an electrode active material formed on said current collecting substrate without the use of binders, wherein the electrode active material has a density less than or equal to 1.4 grams per cubic centimeter in an upper region.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): An electrode structure comprising:

a current collecting substrate and  
a rod-shaped, sponge-shaped, or fiber-shaped electrode active material formed on said current collecting substrate.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An electrode structure according to claim 8, wherein said ~~conductive material~~ current collecting substrate is formed on the surface of electrode active material.